Baths and Wash-houses for Clerkenwell.—A meeting of the parishioners of St. James's, Clerkenwell, has been held to consider the propriety of establishing public baths and wash-houses, under the statute, and it has been almost unanimously resolved,—"That in the opinion of this vestry, great social and moral benefits and advantages will result from the erection of baths and wash-houses in this populous parish, and they agree to adopt the Act of Parliament, the 9th and 10th Vict. cap. 74, feeling that the carrying out of the Act would conduce to the comfort, health, economy, and happiness of the inhabitants." Mr. Mems, in moving the resolution, said he believed that a sum of about 10,000*l.* would accomplish the object of purchasing the land and erecting the buildings. A penny rate in the pound would be all that would be necessary for two years. But the income would be sufficient to pay the interest and the money borrowed in a few years, when they would have, perhaps, a return of 500*l.* a year from the baths and wash-houses in liquidation of the rates.

French Institute of Fine Arts.—The great prizes offered by the Institute for 1852 have been awarded as follow:—Sculpture: 1st prize, M. Alfred Edouard Lepère (Paris); 2nd prize, M. Jean Baptiste Carpeaux (Valencennes). Engraving "*En taille-douce*," 1st prize, M. Paul Alphonse Bellay (Paris); 2nd prize, M. Claud Ferdinand Gaillard (Paris). Architecture: 1st grand prize, M. Paul René Leon Ginain (pupil of Lebas, Paris); 1st second prize, M. Louis François Douillard (Nantes); 2nd second prize, M. Marie Julien Michel Douillard (Nantes). Painting: 2nd grand prize, M. Felix Fossey (Paris). The architectural designs for a gymnasium are, for the most part, very creditable, and show great skill in the application of colour.

Opening Estimates in Scotland.—We are informed that the Inverness master house-carpenters, appearing to feel aggrieved at the manner they are often treated after bestowing much pains upon plans and specifications, have come to the resolution that "no estimate shall be given for work advertised to be settled by competition, unless the parties giving in offers are allowed to be present when the estimates are opened; the meeting considering it but justice that the several candidates should be made aware of the different names of the competitors, and have the satisfaction of knowing how their several offers stand in comparison with that of the successful candidate."

Drainage of Cardiff.—At a meeting of the Local Board of Health held last week, the drainage question, which has been kept open in an unfortunate manner for the last twelve months, was finally settled in favour of the pipe system against a very strong and to some extent interested opposition. It is sincerely to be hoped that it will be immediately proceeded with, seeing the dreadful state of many streets in this town,—reeking with the most nauseous effluvia,—a state of things which told too strongly and too fearfully at the last visitation of the cholera, some three years past.

Talc as Glass for Greenhouses, &c.—A correspondent proposes to substitute talc, which can be split into extremely thin and light layers, instead of glass, in greenhouses, conservatories, &c. Being so much lighter than glass, he remarks, not such strong frames are required. The article, he adds, would not be so readily destroyed by fire as glass, and neither would hailstorms affect it, not being so brittle. The cost of this article, too, is considerably less than glass, and our correspondent is told it has been tried in several places and found to answer.

The Iron Trade.—At the preliminary meeting of this trade, held at Wolverhampton on Thursday last, a further advance upon the prices of iron of 20*s.* per ton was declared, in addition to the previous 20*s.* originating at the partial meeting held at the same place on the 9th ult.; bringing the price of bars and rods to 3*l.* per ton, hoops 9*l.* 10*s.* and sheets 9*l.* 10*s.* By some this step is considered as rather a critical experiment, while others seem fully satisfied of its stability.—*Aris's Birmingham Gazette.*

The Mechanics' Institution at Ashford.—A musical soirée and festival was held on Saturday in last week for the advantage and promotion of the objects designed in the formation of this institution in connection with the South-Eastern Railway, out of the 600 workmen employed on which only some eighty or ninety have hitherto become members. The library now contains 500 volumes. The soirée was well attended, and it is believed that the present effort to bring the institution more into notice, and to increase its patronage and its utility, will be a successful one. Ashford is marked out for a rising place.

Slab, Oven, and Fountain.—Mr. S. Treweeke, of Helston, sent lately to the Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society's Exhibition, according to the *Cornish Telegraph*, a drawing and paper relating to a slab, oven, and fountain, all heated by one fire and with one flue. All the fire passes over the oven, none going between the oven and the fire-place and the ash-pit—that side being sufficiently hot when the other parts are heated, without it. The fire, after passing under the oven, goes on under the ash-pit, where there is a piece of sheet-iron, a rib being cast inside the front to take the sheet-iron. The fire proceeds to the fountain, and thence up the chimney.

Plan for Stopping Railway Trains.—Mr. J. P. Wachter, of Rotterdam, civil engineer, has suggested a plan to prevent railway trains from running off the rails, and for stopping them instantaneously. It consists of two distinct parts—a third or middle rail (before suggested), with guides, the object of which is to prevent the carriages running off the line—and a set of brakes which come into operation all at once on every carriage of the train, by turning a screw either on the locomotive or on the tender. The two parts, he remarks, may be applied separately, but he has combined them, as the objects are of equal importance.

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For building a public-house in the Grove-road, Bow. Messrs. Hammack and Lambert, Architects:—

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The Wood Worm.—A correspondent asks for information as to any means of checking the ravages of the wood worm? It is in the tie beams and rafters of the roof of a large house (the wood is of Baltic fir), and threatens its entire destruction in a few years. "T. A. W.," "J. B.," "The Private Tuition" (declined with thanks), "E. A.," "Y. and Son," "W. S. jun.," "P. L.," "J. W. G." (we are unable to assist), "H. W." (in answer to the question,—Not), "H. P. L.," "W. E.," "A. C.," "J. E.," "C. C. S.," "F. P.," "An Architect" (declined with thanks), "F. O. W.," "R. C." (under our mark), "M." (ditto), "H. B.," "The Earl of E.," "B. F.," "P. P.," and "J. M."

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ROYAL COLOSSEUM (every MONDAY at HALF-PRICE).—The Panoramas of London, Saloon of Sculpture, Conservatories, Gothic Arcade, Swiss Cottage, &c. &c. Open daily from half-past Ten till Five o'clock. In the Evening, from Seven till Ten "Paris by Night," and the whole Establishment brilliantly illuminated.—Admission, Day or Evening, 2*s.* Children and Schools half-price.

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TO ARTISTS, INVENTORS, &c. &c.—The Directors of the ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION Patron, H. R. HIGHNESS PRINCE ALBERT, respectfully give Notice that DEPOSITS of GENERAL INTEREST are RECEIVED, Daily, at Three; Evening, at Eight o'clock. Admission, 1*s.*; Children and Schools half-price.

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TO SURVEYORS.

THE Corporation of Coventry, as the Local Board of Health, having resolved to appoint a SURVEYOR of the COVENTRY DISTRICT, comprising a population of 35,000, about to be as the General Surveyor of the Corporation, with a salary of 150*l.* a year; all persons desirous of the SITUATION are requested to send applications, in writing, to me, with testimonials of their authenticity, on or before MONDAY, the 18th day of October next, and will be expected to enter on the duties of the office immediately after the 25th of November next.

THOMAS BALL TROUGHTON, Town Clerk.

Coventry, October 7, 1852.

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WANTED, a good WORKMAN, competent to model for china. If found suitable, an agreement will be made for a permanency.—Address, A. B. C. care of Mr. Armstrong, Esq. Architect, 3, Calthorpe-street, Gray's-inn-road, London.

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